

13 September 2012

**The National Archives and the V&A launch new eLearning resource
on Victorian Britain**

A unique web resource which combines documents from The National Archives with objects from the Victoria and Albert Museum (V&A) to teach primary school pupils about the Victorian era has been launched today.

The *Victorians* website nationalarchives.gov.uk/victorians encourages Key Stage 2 primary school children to think like historians, by examining and evaluating artefacts such as census returns, newspaper articles, illustrations, photographs and objects, from The National Archives and the V&A.

Clare Horrie, Education Web Manager, The National Archives said:

"We wanted to offer teachers and pupils a framework to use when working with original digital sources. As well as being new and quirky, the material is significantly different to what already exists in textbooks and other web resources and it offers pupils and teachers a combination of documents and objects to evaluate. It will support pupils' historical skills in enquiry, information processing, evaluation and communication".

Through the resource pupils learn the concept of using 'evidence' to answer questions about the past and discover more about the Victorian period. As pupils explore and evaluate official documents they develop skills in interpreting primary sources and chronology which will enable them to draw their own conclusions about the era.

Sophie Walpole, V&A Acting Head of Digital, said:

"This website has presented both organisations with the chance to combine aspects of their unique holdings within a valuable learning resource. The mixture of objects from the V&A collection and documents from The National Archives gives pupils an

opportunity to study historical sources for themselves and draw their own conclusions about many aspects of life in Victorian Britain."

The web resource consists of six themed units of study which reflect the Victorian period in the curriculum; **Victorian Queen; Childhood; Women; The Great Exhibition; British Empire** and **Local History**.

The resource comprises online activities for independent study as well as interactive whiteboard activities for teachers to use with a class or group, providing them with the option of delivering a tutor led experience to pupils.

– Ends –

Notes to editors

Find out more about The Victorians website by reading the *Teacher Resources* section:
http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/victorians/01_start_here.htm

The National Archives

For the record, for good...**The National Archives** is a government department and an executive agency of the Ministry of Justice (MoJ). As the official archive of the UK government and England and Wales, we look after and make available to the public a collection of historical records dating back over 1,000 years, including records as diverse as Domesday Book and MI5 files. Our 21st-century role is to collect and secure the future of the record, both digital and physical, to preserve it for generations to come, and to make it as accessible as possible. We do this by devising technological solutions to ensure the long-term survival of public records and working to widen access to our collection. The National Archives also advises on information management across government, publishes all UK legislation, manages Crown copyright and leads the archive sector. We work to promote and improve access to public sector information and its re-use. www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

The V&A

The Victoria and Albert Museum – known as the V&A – is the world's leading museum of art and design, with collections unrivalled in their scope and diversity. The V&A was established in South Kensington in 1852 to make works of art available to all and to inspire British designers and manufacturers. The V&A is an international Museum, represented by its worldwide collections, but also in its international programme of touring exhibitions and staff exchanges, web initiatives and licensing partnerships.

The V&A's collections span over 2000 years of human creativity, in virtually every medium and drawn from across Europe, the Middle East, India, China, Japan and many other parts of the world. The collections include paintings, sculpture, architecture, ceramics, furniture, fashion and textiles, theatre and performance, photography, glass, jewellery and metalwork.
www.vam.ac.uk